Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) has already been taken up with the Government of UK at the appropriate level.

Group 'A' Engineer Officers leaving DGBR service

2727. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Group 'A' Engineer Officers are leaving the Directorate General Border Roads (DGBR) service in spite of the fact that there is an acute unemployment in the country;

(b) whether this does not indicate dominance, mismanagement and exploitation of General Reserve Engineering Force (GREF) officers in the hands of Army officers who are on the top of DGBR;

(c) whether GREF officers do not command dignity and job satisfaction and their high-tech qualification, knowledge and experience have no meaning; and

(d) if so, by when their dignity will be restored?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Some Border Roads Engineering Service Officers, especially fresh recruits have left service, primarily due to deployment in remote border areas. Army and GREF officers are posted to Staff and Command appointments on regular tenure basis keeping in view their qualifications, experience and service profile. As ample opportunities are being provided to GREF officers, for furtherance of their career prospects, the question of any discrimination does not arise.

Subletting of quarters inside Red Fort

2728. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many quarters inside the Red Fort have been subletted by the Army to the civilians as reported in the Indian Express dated 26th December, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether subletting of quarters by Army Officials have caused serious concern over the security aspects in the Fort; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No Government quarter inside the Red Fort has been subletted by the Army.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Surprise checks are organised to ensure that the Government quarters, are not subletted by anybody.

AJT Deal

2729. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Defence made a commitment in Parliament that the AJT deal would be completed by December, 2000;

(b) what is the cause of delay;

(c) how many MIGs crashed in the last five years; and

(d) how many MIGs crashed in January/February, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Price negotiations are in progress for purchase of Advanced Jet Trainers (AJT). Various issues have to be negotiated and settled, before finalising such a major contract.

(c) and (d) 80 MIGs crashed in the last five years. During January/ February, 2001, 3 MIG aircraft have crashed.

Manufacturing LCA

2730. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken the decision to manufacture Light Combat Aircraft;